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tirely trustworthy. In the lower half we find a variety of cases, *e. g.*, those who lack general power of mental application in sustaining effort, those who may have been disturbed by something occurring in the room, those who may have been lacking in serious effort throughout the test, and possibly others which might be isolated so that in most cases of importance the pupil with poor record should be given an individual trial or trial in small groups in which it is possible to verify the record or isolate the sources of error.

Memory is capable of cultivation on a large scale. It is safe to say that the memory skill of anyone in the plastic period might be increased at least ten-fold, but the significance of records of this kind comes from the fact that they are marks of natural capacity. They show with what sort of raw material the memory training starts. The improvement will be roughly proportional to the original capacity; *e. g.*, if we have the capacities represented by the 10%, 50%, and 90% ranks respectively in three cases, the improvement is not going to make them any more alike than they now are. Other conditions being equal, one will acquire a 10% skill, another a 50% skill, another a 90% skill according to the capacity that they now have.

No vocational guidance in music should be based upon this test alone, and conclusions as to ability must be limited to the factors under control, namely, immediate memory for unrelated tones.

The School and Community Christmas

By EDGAR B. GORDON.

The University of Wisconsin, Madison.

The Music Supervisor finds an increasing need for material of a seasonal character that offers opportunity for effective correlation with other branches of the school curriculum.

At this time when the spirit of patriotism and service is sweeping over us, with community, state, and national cooperation developing on every hand, there is nothing which will stimulate and weld into a better understanding the various elements and provide a wholesome outlet for the feelings of the community as do the arts of music and drama.

To aid in stimulating and maintaining the normal poise of community life so necessary in these trying times, it would seem to be peculiarly fitting that we observe the Christmas time in some such manner as to emphasize its spiritual significance and provide opportunity for its community expression.

The following list of material is given in the hopes of providing a suitable medium for the accomplishment of this purpose:

THE NATIVITY: DOUGLAS HYDE.—A very beautiful short Christmas play published in a volume entitled *Poets and Dreamers*, by Lady Gregory, now out of print. Fortunately, however, a copy of the play may be found in most libraries.

WHY THE CHIMES RANG: ELIZABETH A. MCFADDEN.—An effective dramatization of the story by that name. Last half of the play is pantomime, the effect depending upon the lovely soft music by unseen singers. Time about thirty minutes. Full directions for production contained in book. Royalty fee of \$5.00, but well worth it. May be given by children or young people. Published by Samuel French, 28 and 30 West 38th Street, New York.

EAGER HEART: A. M. BUCKTON.—A beautiful and impressive modern mystery play. Demands careful preparation and good musical talent for an adequate production. Permission to produce must be obtained from Chappell & Co., Publishers, N. Y.

CHRISTMAS MORN: BURGMEIN.—A pageant like performance accompanied by piano and two-part singing. It may be done simply with few people or on a very large scale. Fine for school or Sunday school use. Published by Ricordi, Music Publishers, New York.

THE CHRISTMAS GUEST ON CHRISTMAS EVE: MACKAY.—Two charming plays for children found in *The House of the Heart*, published by Henry Holt, N. Y. Suitable for very small children.

MY LADY'S YULE TIDE: MEAK & PERKINS.—A play for young people making use of the traditional costumes of the old English Christmas. Published by The Drama League of Chicago, Fine Arts Building, Chicago.

THE CHRIST-CHILD IN ART, STORY AND SONG: HOFER.—This beautiful Christmas entertainment is sometimes called the children's Messiah. It makes an interesting use of singing by a chorus of children, stereopticon pictures, and stories.—C. F. Summy Co., Chicago.

THE MAN WHO DIDN'T BELIEVE IN CHRISTMAS: MARY AUSTIN.—Will appear in December Number, *St. Nicholas Magazine*. Was used last season with great success at the Cohan & Harris Theater, New York.

CHRISTMAS IN MERRIE OLD ENGLAND: HOFER.—Entertainment consisting of old carols, dances, and a Masque. Published by Clayton F. Summy Co., Chicago.

THE STORY OF BETHLEHEM: HOFER.—A play in pantomime with music. Three scenes showing the hills of Judea; the coming of the shepherds and the wise men; and the nativity. Published by Clayton F. Summy Co., Chicago.

CHRISTMAS SONGS OF MANY NATIONS: KATHERINE WALLACE DAVIS.—May be used by children in costume. Mr. Gordon will be glad to supply directions for a special use of this material which is both attractive and unique.

BETHLEHEM'S STORY: KOHLSAAT.—A Christmas service of scripture and song. Published by Clayton F. Summy Co., Chicago.

THE BIRTH OF CHRIST: MRS. CROSBY ADAMS.—A cantata for church or school suitable for voices of children or adults. Published by Clayton F. Summy Co., Chicago.

THE HOLY CHILD: THOMAS ADAMS.—A surpassingly beautiful

cantata for children's voices. It can easily be sung, with the exception of the final chorus which requires a few changed voices, by children from ten to twelve years of age. Published by H. W. Gray Co., New York.

THE CHRISTMAS ROSE: WILLIAM LESTER.—A lovely and not difficult short cantata for mixed chorus, solo with organ or orchestral accompaniment. Pub. by H. W. Gray Co., New York.

THE EVERGREEN TREE: PERCY MACKAY & ARTHUR FARWELL.—A Christmas Community Masque of the Tree of Light for community singing and acting. Adaptable to large and small communities. Particularly appropriate for Christmas week in this time of war and national devotion to world service. Masque published by D. Appleton, New York. Music published by The John Church Co., New York.

COLLECTIONS OF CAROLS

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROLS—H. W. Gray & Co., N. Y.

POPULAR CHRISTMAS CAROLS FOR TWO TREBLE VOICES edited by McNaught.—H. W. Gray & Co., N. Y.

TEN TRADITIONAL CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS—O. Ditson Co., Boston.

TEN CHRISTMAS CAROLS AND HYMNS—O. Ditson Co., Boston.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS—Ginn & Co., Chicago.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS AND HYMNS—American Book Co., Chicago.

CHRISTMAS SONGS AND CAROLS—Published by C. C. Birchard & Co., Boston.

FATHER FINN'S CAROL BOOK—For Catholic Churches and Parochial Schools. Published by C. C. Birchard & Co., Boston.

NOTE: Our own Collection, **FIFTY-FIVE SONGS AND CHORUSES FOR COMMUNITY SINGING** (C. C. Birchard & Co., Boston) contains the five carols which seemed to the editors best adapted for Community Christmas Celebrations.

Orchestras in the Grade Schools

SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR BEGINNERS

MRS. ANN DIXON, Duluth, Minn.

A school orchestra gives a different medium of expression, allows many, who cannot sing well—a chance to enjoy another phase of school music work. Many a hard case of discipline has been solved by allowing an unmanageable to play a drum or triangle for the ensemble work. You can stimulate your school music work by organizing a school orchestra.

I. Create the interest: Organize your plan and if necessary, bear the entire burden, for it really is one—at least it is added work and calls for longer hours—but, do not get discouraged with seeming failure, do not be half-hearted. Put your wits to work, arouse enthusiasm some way, get the co-operation of principal or some teacher and begin.

You will find your patience, ability and ears tried but, go ahead, for